



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

Campas Gnó Shoird,
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord,
Bhaile Átha Cliath
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17th October 2023

Mr Richard Bruton, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: richard.bruton@oireachtas.ie

PQ 42465/23 "To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth when vacancies in speech and language and occupational therapists in the north Dublin HSE region will be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter." **Richard Bruton, TD**

Dear Deputy Bruton,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

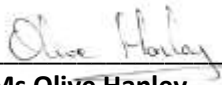
Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is experiencing substantial challenges in regards to recruitment and retention of key health services staff including speech and language therapists and occupational therapists among others. Unfortunately, there are more positions vacant than qualified staff available nationally and internationally. While every effort is being made, unfortunately due to the current difficulty in recruitment of key health services staff, it is not possible to give timeframes of when current vacancies will be filled in CHO DNCC.

CHO DNCC Disability Services with lead agencies the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), St Michael's House (SMH) and Avista are taking a number of measures to fill these vacancies. This includes local and international recruitment campaigns, attending job fairs, advertisement through recruitment agencies, contacts with third level institutions to target graduates and advertising on professional body websites. These initiatives have been quite successful with a number of candidates interviewed and offered positions within CHO DNCC whilst further interviews are continually ongoing.

Concurrently CHO DNCC Disability Services have undertaken to increase administrative support to all the Children Disability network Teams (CDNTs) to enable existing clinical staff to devote more of their time directly to children and families.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability